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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:WSSHEPARD:ECINGRAHAM:CCH
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HELBLE
---------- 049347
P 082327Z MAR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

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E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NROCKEFELLER) SN

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT - TOAST

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TOAST FOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE MARCH 28 BANQUET HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER LEE. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS INVITED, BEARING IN MIND ANY THEMES THAT MAY BE RAISED DURING PRIME MINISTER'S TOAST.

2. QUOTE: MR. PRIME MINISTER, MRS. LEE, DISTINGUISHED HOSTS:

SINGAPORE, LIKE THE UNITED STATES, IS A NATION THAT IS YOUTHFUL AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE. DURING OUR BRIEF VISIT, THE DYNAMISM AND PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT THAT HAVE PRODUCED SO MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS HERE HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY EVIDENT. AND IN TODAY'S INTERCONNECTED WORLD, THE EXPERIENCES OF ALL NATIONS ARE ESPECIALLY RELEVANT TO EACH OTHER.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND THE UNITED STATES HAS, I AM TOLD, RATHER AN INTERESTING HISTORY. IN-DEED THE FIRST AMERICAN CONSUL HERE, DURING THE LAST CENTURY, FOUND SINGAPORE A FAIRLY RELAXED POST, AS THE CLIPPER SHIPS THAT CAME FROM AMERICA STOPPED HERE AT
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REGULAR, BUT INFREQUENT INTERVALS. IT IS EVEN ALLEGED

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THAT OUR CONSUL'S REPORTS WERE USUALLY WRITTEN DURING
THE WEEK BEFORE THE CLIPPER SHIPS SAILED TO AMERICA FROM
SINGAPORE BUT DATED WELL BEFORE HE WROTE THEM, A DEVICE
THAT ENABLED HIM TO PREDICT EVENTS HERE THAT HAD HAPPENED
IN PRECEDING MONTHS WITH GREAT ACCURACY.

UNFORTUNATELY, GIVEN THE SPEED OF MODERN COMMUNICA-

TIONS, AMBASSADOR JOHN HOLDRIDGE HAS NO SUCH RECOURSE
AT HIS DISPOSAL. ALTHOUGH IT IS EVIDENT FROM YOUR
HOSPITALITY THAT SINGAPORE RETAINS SOMETHING FROM THAT
GRACIOUS ERA, IT IS EQUALLY TRUE THAT THE VIEWS OF YOUR
GOVERNMENT ARE TOO VALUABLE TO WASHINGTON TO BE ENTRUSTED
TO CLIPPER SHIPS.

WE PARTICULARLY WELCOME YOUR VIEWS BECAUSE THEY ARE
SEEN AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF SOLID ACCOMPLISHMENT. YOU
HAVE LONG BEEN A LEADING TRADING CENTER FOR THE ENTIRE
REGION. WISELY FORESEEING THE NEED FOR INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, YOU HAVE EXPANDED ON THAT ECONOMIC
BASE TO ADD, PARTICULARLY AT JURONG INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
AN IMPRESSIVE GROUPING OF INDUSTRIES AS WELL. THIS ISLAND
NOW IS NOT ONLY THE WORLD'S FOURTH PORT BUT ITS THIRD
LARGEST OIL REFINERY CENTER AS WELL. OVER HALF OF YOUR
POPULATION IS HOUSED IN APARTMENTS BUILT UNDER YOUR
IMAGINATIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. IN EDUCATION
AND HEALTH, AS IN HOUSING, SINGAPORE HAS BUILT UPON A
SOLID FOUNDATION TO FURTHER THE WELFARE AND PROSPERITY
OF ITS CITIZENS. IN THAT REGARD, IT HAS BEEN WELL SAID
THAT YOU COMBINE THE CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES OF PRIVATE
INVESTMENT, AND THE CONCERN FOR PEOPLE THAT TYPIFIES THE
BEST OF GOVERNMENTS.

THE UNITED STATES AND SINGAPORE SHARE MANY OF THE
SAME IDEALS, INCLUDING:

-- A STRONG BELIEF IN THE CAPABILITIES OF OUR
PEOPLE,

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-- A CONVICTION THAT WE CAN SOLVE PROBLEMS THROUGH
HARD WORK,

-- A WILLINGNESS TO TRY NEW AND FLEXIBLE APPROACHES
TO VEXING PROBLEMS,

-- AND A DETERMINATION THAT WE WILL NOT SIMPLY EN-
DURE IN CHANGING TIMES, BUT PREVAIL.

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MR. PRIME MINISTER, WE IN THE UNITED STATES VIEW THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WITH THE PRIDE THAT ONE RESERVES FOR THE WORK OF GOOD FRIENDS. AND AS GOOD FRIENDS DO, WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AS WE REAFFIRM OUR INTERESTS IN THE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. IN THAT SPIRIT, I RAISE MY GLASS TO THE PRESIDENT, AND TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SINGAPORE. MAY OUR FRIENDSHIP, NEVER MORE SOLID THAN TODAY, CONTINUE TO PROSPER AND FLOURISH.

MAJULAH SINGAPURA. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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